

Friends and Neighbors

CLARKSTON — When Fontie ApMadoc retires, it won't be to Florida. "Too hot and humid."

Nor will it be to Arizona or New Mexico, where the slightest breeze kicks up sand that bothers the village councilwoman's asthma.

Oregon and Washington are probably too humid, and although the 62-year-old divorcee will check out North and South Carolina, the impression is she'd really rather stay in Clarkston.

The former village president with the unusual name — born in Memphis, Tenn., and reared in England and New York — is proudest of all the beautification projects she's undertaken in her adopted town.

Large, colorful tubs of flowers on downtown streets and a continuing tree-planting project at Depot Park are beginning to bear fruit. These projects were accomplished during the six years she was village president.

In addition, Ms. ApMadoc keeps her goals before the public through an ambitious letter-writing program aimed at the readers of the local newspaper.

Ms. ApMadoc, named Fontie in honor of an uncle called Font, picked up her unusual last name through marriage to a Welshman. That alliance has been over for the past three years.

She was 54 years old before she discovered that her original name had been a more prosaic Mary Margaret King. Back in 1976, she was headed for a summer in Europe when she found that the birth certificate required for her passport contained the surprise information that she had been adopted.

The parents she'd always considered hers weren't, and true to her natural curiosity, she found a natural mother living in Louisiana.

Foiled in her attempts to meet with the woman and the four half-sisters Ms. ApMadoc learned she had, she has become philosophical.

"At least I know where the red hair in our family came from," says the mother of four and grandmother of 10.

She keeps busy three mornings a week as a volunteer in a congressional election campaign, but has, however, given up all thoughts of resuming an antique business she ran for 11 years.

Her downtown apartment furnished exquisitely in early American country primitive, Ms. ApMadoc has reached that stage in

life where she is beginning to pass some of the treasures along to her children.

Though she plans to sell the building she calls home, the energetic senior citizen would like to remain close to a shopping area.

"I think it's important to be able to walk to stores."



The Oakland Press/Doug Bauman

Fontie ApMadoc of Clarkston cultivates her gardens

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I REALLY HOPE I DONT HAVE TO SELL. HAD 3
CALLS AFTER THIS ARTICLE. PHOOEY.